

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed March 27, 2007, the Examiner took the following action: (1) objected to the drawings; (2) rejected claims 13 and 26 under 35 USC §112, ¶ 1; (3) objected to the claims; (4) rejected claims 1, 4, 7-9, 14, 18, 20-22, 28-29, 33, 35, 36, and 43-47 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kim (US 5,403,133); and (5) rejected claims 1-4, 7-9, 11-16, 18, 20-22, 24-33, 35-37, and 43-47 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Boyle-Davis (US 6,843,328). The Examiner acknowledged, however, that claims 38-42 are allowable, and that claims 5 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of their respective base and intermediate claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to show a specific embodiment as recited in claims 13 and 26. Applicants have cancelled claims 13 and 26, thereby rendering the objection to the drawings moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

II. Objections to the Claims

The Examiner objected to the claims due to informalities. Applicants have amended the claims to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Specifically, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 43 to correct the antecedent basis issues noted by the Examiner, and have amended claim 3 to correct the dependency issue noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the claims.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Without additional comment and without prejudice as to the merits of the Examiner's rejections, Applicants have amended claims and canceled claims in order to expedite the issuance of the subject matter acknowledged as being allowable, and without prejudice to the filing of subsequent divisional or continuation applications to pursue allowance of one or more of the rejected claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5, placing claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claim 5 has been canceled. Claims 2-4, 7-9, and 11 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 7-9, and 11 are now in condition for allowance.

Similarly, Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5, which the Examiner acknowledged as being allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 17, placing claim 14 in condition for allowance. Claim 17 has been canceled. Claims 15-16 and 20-22 depend from claim 14. Accordingly, claims 14-16 and 20-22 are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner acknowledged that claims 38-42 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 7-9, 11-12, 14-16, 20-22, and 38-42 are now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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